THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM(SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) This facility is likely to be provided in 1994.

**Airlink with South Africa**

7073. SHRI DHARAMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to have airlink with South Africa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). south Africa appears to offer a good commercial opportunity. However, a decision on establishement of an airlink would be subject to establishment of displomatic relations, and there after conclusion of an Air Services agreement.

**Conversion of F.M. Transmitters into Relay Transmitters**

7074. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert all originating and non-originating local radio FM transmitters into relay transmitters;

(b) whether such a step will not deprive the local people from the participation; and

((c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). do not arise.

[*Translation*]

**Akashwani Mithila (Darbhanga) Centre**

7075. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) since when the details of Akashvani Mithila (Darbhanga) Centre was set up, its transmission capacity; and the language-wise time allotted for their transmission;

(b) the time by which its capacity will be increased and the expenditure involved; and

(c) the time by which news will be broadcasted in Mithili to facilitate the people especially uneducated rural people living in Tarai regions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Darbhanga station of All India Radio was commissioned on 2nd February,, 1976. This station with a transmitter of 10 KW (Medium Wave) broadcasts, per month, spokenword programmes in different languages and dialects as under: